



# WIC POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

Michigan Department of Community Health

Chapter/Section: 1.02

Effective Date: 10/1/05

Issue Date: 10/1/05

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## 1. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

### 1.02 Overview of WIC Program

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FINAL

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) contracts with the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), to administer the WIC Program in Michigan.

1. Direct services - MDCH contracts with local agencies who have responsibility for providing direct program services to participants.
2. Program benefits - Benefits provided through the WIC Program to participants include:
  - a. Nutritious foods - Nutritious foods are provided by means of food coupons which participants redeem at authorized vendors. Foods provided by the WIC Program are selected to provide specific nutrients known to be lacking in the diets of the target population. Supplemental foods that promote the health of the population served by the WIC program as indicated by relevant nutrition science, public health concerns and cultural eating patterns.
  - b. Nutrition education - At least one-sixth of the funds expended for administration and program services in the WIC Program must be spent in the area of nutrition education. Nutrition education may be provided on an individual basis, by counseling, or group sessions. A minimum of two encounters per certification period must be offered for each participant, or once per quarter for infants.
  - c. Breastfeeding promotion and education - Must be provided to all pregnant women enrolled in the WIC Program. MDCH is mandated to provide training to persons providing breastfeeding promotion and support; and to provide breastfeeding promotion materials in languages other than English. MDCH may authorize purchase of breastfeeding aids by local agencies.
  - d. Adjunct to Health Care - An expected indirect benefit for women, infants and children of WIC is the increased and regular use of health care services. The WIC Program encourages the use of existing health care, and makes referrals to available services.
3. Criteria for Eligibility - To qualify to receive WIC Program benefits, individuals must meet all of the following criteria:
  - a. Status - Pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, and infants and children up to five years of age.
  - b. Residence - Resident of Michigan, a seasonal farmworker, or a transferring individual with a current ID/VOC card.
  - c. Income - At or below the current guidelines (185% of poverty) provided by the



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- d. Nutritional/medical risk - An identified medical and/or nutritional risk as specified through the guidelines provided by the Michigan Department of Community Health.
- 4. Food Delivery System - Michigan uses a retail purchase system to provide nutritious foods for WIC Program participants. Grocery stores and pharmacies (vendors) are contracted to redeem WIC coupons given to participants at the local clinic. Training regarding coupon redemption procedures is provided to all vendors. MDCH-WIC Division monitors vendor compliance with WIC procedures, applying sanctions if needed. Local agency staff help to prevent abuse by providing education to participants regarding the redemption system.

Reference:

Federal Regulations Part 246  
P.L. 101-147